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establish the fact that, so far as the atmosphere and the soil are concerned, everything remains as it was in antiquity. The present condition is due to the idleness of the Arabs and their destruction of the growths. They have allowed the innumerable wells to become choked and the vegetation to perish. In a country so little favoured by nature the first requisite is a diligent and hard-working population. The Romans took several centuries to make the land productive by damming the ravines and sinking wells in the *wady* beds. Except in some terribly stony deserts, the soil is excellent, and very fertile when supplied with water, but it receives none now that the wells are abandoned.

To recapitulate, the structure of Tripoli is simple: a stretch of seashore, then a great interior plateau, ending abruptly on the Djeffara and declining gradually to the south and the east. From the plateau a terrace, called Tarhouna, projects towards the sea. The distribution of the population is equally simple: the low lands are held by the Arabs, sedentary in the oases near the sea and nomadic everywhere else; and the indented zone of the plateau, called Djebel Gariana and Djebel Nefousa, is inhabited by Berbers of unmixed race.

Very different ideas with regard to the geography of this country existed before our expedition, and to have set the facts in a true light is sufficient reward for our efforts.

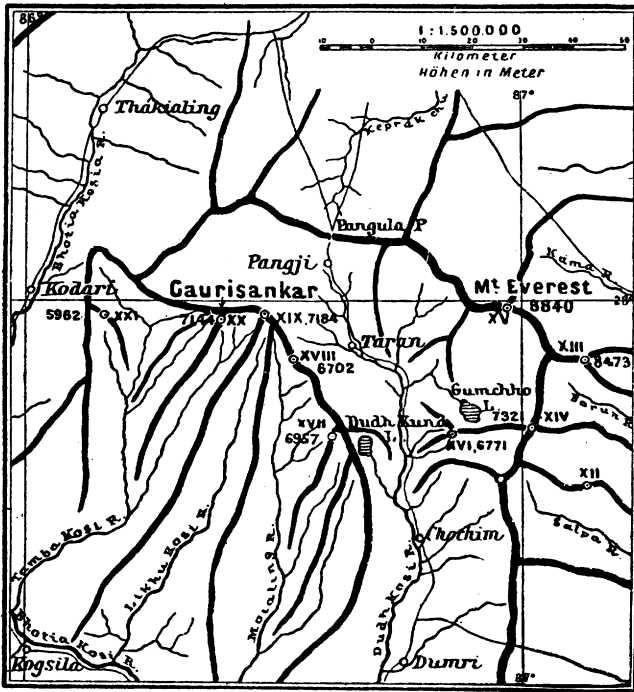
GAURISANKAR IS NOT MOUNT EVEREST.

In the fall of 1903 Captain H. Wood, R.E., of the Indian Survey, was sent to Nepal by Lord Curzon to ascertain whether the peak known to the Nepalese as Gaurisankar was identical or not with the peak known to us as Mount Everest. An experienced surveyor, and equipped with the best instruments and with full permission to use them, the results he obtained are of no small interest, for they end a controversy extending over nearly a half century concerning the name of the highest mountain in the world. These results of Captain Wood's visit are given in his "Report on the Identification and Nomenclature of Himalayan Peaks," recently published in Calcutta. An article based on this report is printed in *Nature* (No. 1828), from which the following facts are taken.

The chief result of Wood's visit to Kaulia, Nepal, was that he

found that Gaurisankar and Everest are different peaks, thirty-six miles apart, and that Everest, from that point of view, far from being conspicuous, is almost concealed by intervening ranges. He discovered that an imposing peak of the snowy range—a peak long known in the records of the survey as Peak XX, height 23,440 feet—is the famous Gaurisankar of the Nepalese.

This discovery proves the mistake of Schlagintweit when he asserted that Everest and Gaurisankar were one and the same mountain, and that the culminating point of the earth should be



called Mount Gaurisankar—a contention that for decades has been strongly maintained by many geographers of continental Europe.

It will be remembered that about 1852 the chief computer of the Survey Office at Calcutta informed Sir Andrew Waugh, Surveyor-General of India, that a peak designated as XV had been found to be higher than any other hitherto measured in the world. This peak had been observed from six different stations, and on no occasion had the observer suspected that he was viewing through his telescope the highest point of the earth. The mean of the six values of height obtained for Mount Everest was 29,002.3 feet.

Sir Andrew Waugh had always adhered to the rule of assigning to every geographical object its true local or native name; but here was a mountain, the highest in the world, without any local or native name that he was able to discover. He determined, therefore, to name the great snow peak after Sir George Everest, his former chief, the celebrated Indian geodesist. The name of Mount Everest has since become a household word, and no objection to it has ever been raised by natives of the country.

When Sir Andrew Waugh announced that the peak was to be named Everest, Mr. Hodgson, who had been the political officer in Nepal for many years, intimated that Sir Andrew had been mistaken, and that the mountain had a local name—viz., Devadhunga. It is now known beyond dispute that Hodgson made two mistakes. All subsequent information goes to show that there is no peak in Nepal called Devadhunga. It is believed that the name is a mythological term for the whole snowy range, and that the mountain Hodgson saw was not Everest.

In 1855 the German explorer Hermann von Schlagintweit visited a hill in Nepal named Kaulia, near Katmandu, and from it took observations of the snow peaks. He saw the mountain called Devadhunga by Hodgson, and wrongly identified it as Mount Everest. He, however, repudiated Hodgson's name of Devadhunga, and certified that the local native name for the peak was Gaurisankar. This was true, and Schlagintweit's mistake was that he supposed this mountain to be Everest.

Continental geographers, accepting Schlagintweit's views, have continued to this day to call the highest mountain in the world Gaurisankar. The Indian Survey authorities, however, were unable to reconcile Schlagintweit's views with their own, and declined to follow him.

The supposed identity of Everest and Gaurisankar rested only on Schlagintweit's evidence. It is true that successive British residents at Katmandu, the capital of Nepal, continued to regard Gaurisankar as Everest, but their ideas were based on the Schlagintweit tradition. It was left to Captain Wood to clear up the mystery. The accompanying sketch map, showing the relative positions of Mounts Everest and Gaurisankar, is from *Petermanns Mittheilungen* for November, 1904.